

Notice of Public Hearing

LSA Document #10-415

Notice of Public Hearing

Under [IC 4-22-2-24](#), notice is hereby given that on October 19, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. EDT, at the Indiana Government Center South, 402 West Washington Street, Conference Center Room C, Indianapolis, Indiana, the Department of Child Services will hold a public hearing on a proposed rule to amend certain sections of [465 IAC 2-2](#), [465 IAC 2-9](#), [465 IAC 2-10](#), [465 IAC 2-11](#), [465 IAC 2-12](#), and [465 IAC 2-13](#), concerning the licensing of child placing agencies, child caring institutions, emergency shelter child caring institutions, private secure facilities, group homes, and emergency shelter group homes.

The proposed rule changes educational and experience qualifications for certain employees of those licensed residential facilities, amends child to caseworker ratios, establishes new ratios of supervisors to direct care staff, and adds definitions applicable to child placing agency licensing standards. The department expects that these amendments will have insignificant cost effects on the licensed agencies affected by the rules because most, if not all, of the licensees already meet these requirements, as shown on their annual cost reports that the department receives. Any increased costs of compliance with these standards will be reimbursed as part of the administrative cost of caring for children placed by the department, as shown by the provider cost reports. The new staff qualifications and ratios are needed to ensure that providers will be appropriately compensated for the necessary and prudent costs of caring for the children that the department places with them for residential care and services.

In compliance with [IC 4-22-2-24\(d\)\(3\)](#), the department advises that it has consulted and utilized information from the following sources in determining that the requirements of the proposed rule amendments are necessary and appropriate:

(1) Child Welfare League of America publication titled "Standards of Excellence: CWLA Standards of Excellence for Residential Services" (Revised Edition, 2004).

(2) Child Welfare League of America, article titled "CWLA's Position on Residential Care" and related articles, published in Residential Group Care Quarterly, Vol. 7, No. 4 (Spring 2007).

Copies of the proposed rule, and the documents described above that the department consulted relating to the requirements imposed by the rule amendments, may be inspected and copied at the offices of the department as stated below.

Any interested persons may attend the public hearing and present comments on the proposed rule. Written statements are encouraged and preferred, and will be included in the hearing record, without the necessity for personal attendance at the hearing. Questions, comments, or prehearing written statements may be forwarded to the following mailing address or by e-mail:

Mail address:

Jeffrey M. Lozer, General Counsel

Room E306, MS 47

302 West Washington Street

Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739

E-mail address: residential.rulemaking@dcs.in.gov

Copies of these rules are now on file at the Indiana Government Center South, 302 West Washington Street, Room E306 and Legislative Services Agency, Indiana Government Center North, 100 North Senate Avenue, Room N201, Indianapolis, Indiana and are open for public inspection.

John Wood
Deputy General Counsel
Department of Child Services
302 West Washington Street, Room E306
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2739
ljohn.wood@dcs.in.gov

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